

DRAFT Data Assessment Team (DAT) Conference Call Notes
01/8/2015 at 11:00 a.m.

Participants: Geir Aasen and Lauren Damon (DFW), Rhiannon Mulligan, Loi Tran, Mark Bettencourt, Dan Yamanaka, and Farida Islam (DWR), Owen Lu and RG Fernando (MWD), Leigh Bartoo, Jon Speegle, and Craig Anderson(FWS), and Lucinda Shih (CCWD)

Preliminary Rotary Screw Trap (RST) Report				
Species*	FWS Red Bluff Diversion Dam RST (Estimated Passage)	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) RST (Catch)	DFW Tisdale Weir RST (Catch)	DFW Knights Landing RST (Catch)
Date	12/17/2014-12/31/2014	01/07/2015	01/01/2015-01/05/2015	01/01/2015-1/05/2015
CHNF	930,537	10	74	3
CHNLF	7,624	2	0	1
CHNW	5,587	4	2	0
CHNS	13,730	1	47	4
Ad-Clipped CHN	Not Reported		0	1
SH	0	1	0	0
Ad-Clipped SH	Not Reported	127	0	0
GST	Not Reported		Not Reported	Not Reported
*Chinook race based on length (Frank Fisher model); CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS= Spring run, SH = Steelhead, GST= Green Sturgeon. Species are unmarked unless noted as adipose-fin clipped (ad-clipped). Data subject to revision.				

Josh Gruber(FWS) has provided the following update to DAT reflector on 1/7/15 :

Please note that the biweekly report was updated from the original report emailed on 12/31/14 as there was a slight change to the RBT passage. We are currently subsampling due to the recent Coleman National Fish Hatchery Releases. We are seeing increasing numbers of Fall run fry and numerous adipose clipped RBT from the release group. Our next passage estimate will be distributed next Wednesday (1/14/15). During the last couple of samples we have observed some Chinook that have fallen in the WCS size class range (57mm-115mm) although they could be small Late Fall fish.

-GCID lowered their RST cone at 9:00am on 1/6/2015. The trap will continue fishing until further notice. GCID cone was pulled on 12/3/14 due to forecasted increase in flow and subsequent elevation change.

Sacramento River Fish Monitoring

Graphical summaries of the monitoring data collected at the Sacramento River and at other locations can be found at <http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/calfedmonitoring.cfm>. In addition, the biweekly passage reports of juvenile salmonids sampled at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam are available at http://www.fws.gov/redbluff/rbdd_jsmp.html

Hatchery Release

In reference to data from Josh Gruber , Coleman National Fish Hatchery will release 688,000 brood year 2014 steelhead into the Sacramento River (at Bend Bridge) on January 2-9,2015. The estimated average fork length is 195 mm. All of the fish are marked only (with an adipose-fin clip).

Delta Fish Monitoring

Preliminary FWS Trawl and Seine Catch Report from 12/28/2014-1/03/2015				
Species*	Beach Seines	Mossdale Trawl**	Sacramento Trawl	Chippis Island Trawl
CHNF	304		2	
CHNLF				2
CHNW	1			1
CHNS	170			
Ad-Clipped CHN				9
SH				
Ad-Clipped SH				
DSM				1
LFS				36
SPLT				79
*Chinook race based on length (Frank Fisher model); CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS= Spring run, SH = Steelhead, DSM=Delta Smelt, LFS=Longfin Smelt, SPLT = Splittail. Species are unmarked unless noted as adipose-fin clipped (ad-clipped). Data subject to revision.				

** No species of management concern

-Sacramento trawls are now sampling 3 times per week until gates open.

-Sampling at Prisoners Point is going down to once a week and Jersey Point is once a week; Jon Speegle will let DAT know if there are any changes.

Information about the Delta fish monitoring data from FWS can be found at <http://www.fws.gov/stockton/jfmp/>.

Salvage Monitoring

Preliminary DFW Salvage Report for Salmonids from 12/29/2014-01/04/2014								
Species	Central Valley Project (CVP)				State Water Project (SWP)			
	Adipose-Fin Clipped (Ad-Clipped)		Non-Adipose Fin Clipped (Non-Clipped)		Adipose-Fin Clipped (Ad-Clipped)		Non-Adipose Fin Clipped (Non-Clipped)	
	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss
CHNF								
Total to Date					41	180		
CHNLF	24	20			8	24		
Total to Date	72	55			64	285	6	26
CHNW			12	10	8	37		
Total to Date	16	11	24	19	24	107	8	34

CHNS								
Total to Date								
CHNU								
Total to Date								
SH								
Total to Date							4	17.32

Notes:

- Chinook race based on length (Delta model); CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS=Spring run, CHNU= Unknown race (Chinook greater than the length-at-date criteria or fork length not measured), SH =Steelhead.
- Salvage and loss estimates are rounded to the nearest whole fish.
- Documentation on how to calculate salvage and Chinook loss can be found at <ftp://ftp.delta.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/Salmon%20Loss%20Estimation/>.
- Steelhead loss: SWP steelhead loss = salvage × 4.33 and CVP steelhead loss = salvage × 0.68.
- Total to date is the total since 10/1/13 (the start of water year 2014).
- Data subject to revision.

-Total unknown adipose clipped sub-adult salvage at the SWP facility is 12 and not clipped is 24. No loss was calculated for sub-adult since they were too large (591 not clipped, 549 clipped, and 710 not clipped mmFL) to fit the loss calculation.

-Farida Islam explained that the procedure at SWP is to measure and release sub-adult clipped fish that are above 300mm.

Preliminary DFW Salvage Report for Smelt and Other Species from 12/29/2014-01/04/2014				
	CVP		SWP	
Species	Salvage	Total to Date	Salvage	Total to Date
DSM	36	36		
LFS				
SPLT	12	12	335	450
GST				
WST				

Notes:

- DSM=Delta Smelt, LFS=Longfin Smelt, SPLT=Splittail, GST=Green Sturgeon, WST=White Sturgeon.
- Salvage estimates are rounded to the nearest whole fish.
- Total to date is the total since 10/1/13 (the start of water year 2014).
- Data subject to revision.

- On 01/07/2015 4 delta smelt were salvaged at the state facility and 52 delta smelt salvaged at the federal facility.

Smelt Monitoring

Lauren Damon(DFW) has provided the following update:

No results for larval survey 1 yet, but check the website Monday or early next week.

The December Fall Midwater Trawl has completed sampling and data is now available for Delta Smelt. The FMWT Annual Index for fall 2014 is 9. This is the lowest fall index, and approximately one half of the previous lowest indices of 17 (2009) and 18 (2013). Smelt Larva Survey begins this week. Spring Kodiak Trawl #1 is in the field the week of January 12. The Service's Early Warning Study reported Delta Smelt catches at Jersey Point and Prisoner's Point. Delta Smelt catch data from the Early Warning Study is as follows (tows were 15 for all days):

1/1/2015 Prisoner's Point=10 Delta Smelt

1/2 Jersey Point=7 Delta Smelt

1/3 Prisoner's Point=0 Delta Smelt

1/4 Jersey Point=15 Delta Smelt

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=20mm>.

Smelt Working Group

Leigh Bartoo provided the following SWG summary:

The SWG agreed that as long as current Delta conditions remain (specifically interior Delta turbidities above 10NTU and OMRs of >5000cfs) salvage is expected to continue. Updated turbidity forecast modeling runs have not been produced since last week and it is therefore difficult to anticipate when the currently higher interior Delta turbidities will dissipate. If these current conditions continue, based on salvage data from the last four days, the Projects will likely exceed the WY 2015 ITL before the end of the week. During WY 2013 it was observed that salvage rates decreased coincident with reduced exports. This suggests that an immediate reduction in export pumping with a correspondingly less negative OMR flow is warranted. The Working Group will continue to monitor Delta Smelt survey and salvage data and Delta conditions and will meet again Monday, January 12, 2015.

RG Fernando asked if 5 or 6 fish are needed to exceed the WY 2015 ITL for Delta smelt? Leigh Bartoo responded that we have a cumulative total of 56 fish and the ITL is for 79 with a concern level of 58, therefore we are 2 fish away from the concern level and the SWG is considering all their options at this point.

The Smelt Working Group meeting notes and FWS determinations are posted at http://www.fws.gov/sfbaydelta/cvp-swp/smelt_working_group.cfm.

Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Working Group

As no DOSS representative was on the DAT call, Farida Islam gave an update to the group about Action IV. 2.3 and the current fish distribution. Farida Islam also shared with the group a ***Special Topic: Protocol for handling >300 mm Chinook at the salvage facilities*** that was discussed on the 1/6/15 DOSS call. After a brief discussion among DWR, DFW, and NMFS agency representatives – DOSS expressed curiosity of knowing the whereabouts of “unclassified” CHN(>300 mm) if it has coded wire tag, but considering the greater benefit and infrequency of this kind of salvage, DOSS agreed that CHN of this large size should be released.

Barb Byne(NMFS) sent out the following DOSS update later to the reflector:

DOSS update for DAT

Highlights from 1/6/15 DOSS meeting are provided below.

DOSS Advice: None.

DOSS did discuss the drought sampling at Jersey Point and Prisoners Point (and the SWG suggestion to reduce sampling at these locations), and agreed that weekly sampling (or perhaps even less, if smelt take concerns are very high) would be sufficient for salmonid purposes as long as no RPA flexibilities for which these data would be informative are being, or about to be, implemented.

Fish highlights:

- DOSS changed the estimated young-of-year spring-run distribution based on new information compiled by DFW from local tributary biologists who thought that DOSS's estimate of 50% of YOY SR in the delta was too high.

Location	Yet to Enter Delta (Upstream of Knights Landing)	In the Delta	Exited the Delta (Past Chipps Island)
<i>Young-of-year (YOY) winter-run Chinook salmon</i>	< 5% (last week: same)	>95% (last week: same)	<5% (last week: same)
<i>YOY spring-run Chinook salmon</i>	50% - 75% (last week: ~50%)	25% - 50% (last week: ~50%)	< 5% (last week:same)
<i>Yearling spring-run Chinook salmon</i>	< 5% (last week: same)	80% - 90% (last week: same)	< 15% (last week: same)

Delta RPA Actions in effect during January:**Action IV.1.2 (DCC gate operations):**

- Default DCC gate closure started Monday, Dec 1.

Action IV.2.3 (OMR Management)

- In anticipation that the first- and second-stage JPE-based triggers in Action IV.2.3 will be less than the minimum trigger levels, Action IV.2.3 is being implemented using the minimum trigger values (along with all other triggers):
 - the first stage minimum action trigger is daily SWP/CVP older juvenile Chinook salmon loss density of 2.5 fish per TAF exported; exceedance would require OMR to be no more negative than -3500 cfs for at least five days.
 - the second stage minimum action trigger is daily SWP/CVP older juvenile Chinook salmon loss density of 5.0 fish per TAF exported; exceedance would require OMR to be no more negative than -2500 cfs for at least five days.
- No triggers have been exceeded; the projects are currently managing to an OMR limit of -5,000 cfs

DOSS notes and related documents are posted at
http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/central_valley/water_operations/doss.html.

Operations

Preliminary Summary for 1/08/15			
SWP		CVP	
Clifton Court Inflow (cfs)	4,600	Jones Pumping Plant (cfs)	1100*
SWP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	577	CVP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	316
San Luis Reservoir Total (TAF) as of Midnight	893	American – Nimbus Reservoir Releases (cfs)	900
Feather – Oroville Reservoir Releases (cfs)	1,375	Sacramento – Keswick Reservoir Releases (cfs)	3250
		Stanislaus – Goodwin Reservoir Releases (cfs)	300
DELTA OPERATIONS			
Outflow (cfs)	~6,600	Delta Cross Channel (DCC) Gates	Closed
Total Delta Inflow (cfs)	~13,814 cfs		
X2 (km)	73		
Export/Inflow (%)	22.7%(14-day avg)		

*1100 is the average of the day.

A summary of daily operations can also be viewed at <http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/docs/delta/deltaops.pdf>.

Next Conference Call: The next DAT conference call will be on 1/15/15.